

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1 to 31 (Canceled).

32 (Currently Amended). A motor-driven tool for applying an implantation force to a fastener sized and configured for implantation in tissue in response to an implantation force applied according to prescribed conditions, the motor-driven tool comprising

a tool body,

a drive motor carried in the tool body,

a driven member coupled to the drive motor, the driven member being carried by the tool body and being operable to apply the implantation force during operation of the drive motor,

a ~~mechanism~~ carrier on the driven member to couple the fastener to the driven member to transfer the implantation force from the driven member to the fastener, and

a ~~controller~~ motor control unit carried in the tool body and being coupled to the driven member drive motor, the controller motor control unit being conditioned to operate the drive motor in phases including an initial phase operating the ~~driven member carrier~~ carrier to apply transfer the implantation force to the fastener under conditions that are short of the prescribed conditions so that the fastener remains coupled to the carrier, a lull phase commencing automatically at the end of the initial phase interrupting operation of the ~~driven member carrier~~ carrier, and a final phase operating the ~~driven member carrier~~ carrier under conditions that supplement the conditions of the initial phase to achieve the prescribed conditions to release the fastener from the carrier and implant the fastener in tissue, the ~~controller~~ motor control unit requiring, after automatically entering the initial lull phase, a prescribed final phase command to advance from the lull phase to the final phase.

33 (Currently Amended). ~~An assembly~~ A motor-driven tool according to claim 32

wherein the prescribed final phase command is based, at least in part, upon input from an operator.

34 (Currently Amended). ~~An assembly~~ A motor-driven tool according to claim 32

wherein the prescribed final phase command is based, at least in part, upon input reflecting a sensed operating condition.

35 (Currently Amended). ~~An assembly~~ A motor-driven tool according to claim 32

wherein the driven member is also operable to apply a removal force to withdraw the fastener from tissue, and

wherein the ~~controller~~ motor control unit includes a removal phase operating the ~~driven member carrier~~ to apply transfer the removal force to the fastener, the ~~controller~~ motor control unit requiring, after automatically entering the ~~initial~~ lull phase, a prescribed removal phase command different than the prescribed final phase command to advance from the lull phase to the removal phase.

36 (Currently Amended). ~~An assembly~~ A motor-driven tool according to claim 35

wherein the ~~driven member carrier~~ is rotated in one direction to apply transfer the implantation force and rotated in an opposite direction to apply transfer the removal force.

37 (Withdrawn) (Currently Amended). ~~An assembly~~ A motor-driven tool according to claim 32

further including an element tethering the fastener to the tool body, the element including a frangible portion.

38 (Currently Amended). ~~An assembly~~ A motor-driven tool according to claim 32

wherein the tool body includes a tube that carries the driven member and the carrier.

39 (Currently Amended). ~~An assembly~~ A motor-driven tool according to claim 32

wherein the driven member is rotated to apply the implantation force.

Claims 40 to 43 (Canceled)

44 (Currently Amended). A method for implanting a fastener in tissue comprising the steps of

providing a motor-driven tool as defined in claim 32,

coupling a fastener to the ~~driven member carrier~~,

accessing a tissue region,

operating the ~~driven member~~ motor control unit ~~during in~~ the initial phase to partially implant the fastener in the tissue region,

deciding during the lull phase to commence the final phase, and

entering the prescribed final phase command to advance the motor control unit from the lull phase to the final phase, thereby completing the implantation of the fastener in the tissue region.

Claims 45 to 47 (Canceled)

48 (New). A method for implanting a fastener in tissue comprising the steps of

providing a motor-driven tool for applying an implantation force to a fastener sized and configured for implantation in tissue in response to an implantation force applied according to prescribed conditions, the motor-driven tool comprising a tool body, a drive motor carried in the tool body, a driven member coupled to the drive motor, the driven member being carried by the tool body and being operable to apply the implantation force during operation of the drive motor, and a carrier on the driven member to couple the fastener to the driven member to transfer the implantation force from the driven member to the fastener, and a motor control unit carried in the tool body and being coupled to the drive motor, the motor control unit being conditioned to operate the drive motor in phases including an initial phase operating the carrier to transfer the implantation force to the fastener under conditions that are short of the prescribed conditions so that the fastener remains coupled to the carrier, a lull phase commencing automatically at the end of the initial phase interrupting operation of the carrier, and a final phase operating the carrier under conditions that supplement the conditions of the initial phase to achieve the prescribed conditions to release the fastener from the carrier and implant the fastener in tissue, the motor control unit requiring, after automatically entering the lull phase, a first prescribed command to advance from the lull phase to the final phase, the driven member being also operable to apply a removal force to withdraw the fastener from tissue, the motor control unit including a removal phase operating the carrier to transfer the removal force to the fastener, the motor control unit requiring, after automatically entering the lull phase, a second prescribed command different than the first prescribed command to advance from the lull phase to the removal phase,

coupling a fastener to the carrier,

accessing a tissue region,

operating the motor control unit in the initial phase to partially implant the fastener in the tissue region,

deciding during the lull phase to commence either the final phase or the removal phase,

if deciding to commence the final phase, entering the first prescribed command to advance the motor control unit from the lull phase to the final phase, thereby completing the implantation of the fastener in the tissue region, and

if deciding to commence the removal phase, entering the second prescribed command to advance the motor control unit from the lull phase to the removal phase, thereby withdrawing the fastener from the tissue region.